

Appl. No. 10/790,990
Response dated May 18, 2009
Reply to Office Action of December 16, 2008

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (currently amended) A cooking apparatus, comprising:
 - a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;
 - b) a pot that includes a pot upper end portion, generally flat bottom portion, a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall and a generally cylindrically shaped interior;
 - c) the support surface supporting the bottom portion of the pot;
 - d) the frame further including a vertical member, the vertical member being connected to the frame, extending above the bottom portion of the pot, and being generally parallel to the sidewall of the pot;
 - e) the vertical member restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use of the cooking apparatus such as when a food to be cooked is inserted into or removed from the pot; and
 - f) a plurality of food holding inserts that fit the pot interior, wherein a first insert is selectively connectable to and supported by a second insert and wherein the second insert has an upper end with a connector and is configured to extend between the pot bottom portion and the pot upper end portion and support a food item when it is not supporting the first insert;
 - g) a lifting hook that selectively connects to or disconnects from the connector of the second insert.
2. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.
3. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vertical member comprises a ring.
4. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein the vertical member comprises a plurality of struts.

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5. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 4, wherein each strut includes a first strut portion, second strut portion, and a third strut portion, the first strut portion of each strut being generally parallel with the bottom portion of the pot, the second strut portion of each strut extending in a generally vertical direction from the second strut portion, the third strut portion extending downwardly from the second strut portion.

6. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 1, the vertical member including a plurality of struts, each strut comprising multiple strut portions and an upper ring.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein at least some of the strut portions extending above the pot support surface and restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use.

8. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 4, wherein there are three circumferentially spaced apart radially extending struts that are spaced about 120 degrees apart.

9. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a food holder that fits inside the pot interior, the food holder having a base portion that registers against the bottom of the pot and a vertically extending portion that enables a user to lift the food holder.

10. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a horizontally extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that a user can grip the horizontally extended section with his or her hand or hands.

11. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a lower ring that defines at least in part the base.

12. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

13. (currently amended) A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking; the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;

b) the pot including a pot upper end portion, generally flat bottom portion and having

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a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall portion;

c) the frame further including a projecting member, the projecting member being connected to the frame, extending above the support surface for cradling the pot, and being generally parallel to the sidewall of the pot;

d) the projecting member restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use of the cooking apparatus such as when a food to be cooked is inserted into or removed from the pot; and

e) a plurality of food holding inserts that fit the pot interior, wherein a first insert is selectively connectable to and supported by a second insert, the second insert has an upper end with a connector and is being configured to extend between the pot bottom portion and the pot upper end portion and support a food item when it is not connected to the first insert;

f) a lifting hook that selectively connects to or disconnects from the connector of the second insert.

14. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

15. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, wherein the vertical member includes a ring.

16. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, wherein the vertical member includes a plurality of struts.

17. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 16, wherein each strut includes a first strut portion, second strut portion, and a third strut portion, the first strut portion of each strut being generally parallel with the bottom portion of the pot, the second strut portion of each strut extending in a generally vertical direction from the second strut portion, the third strut portion extending downwardly from the second strut portion.

18. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, the vertical member including a plurality of struts, each strut comprising multiple strut portions and an upper ring.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least some of the strut portions

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extending above the pot support surface and restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use.

20. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 16, wherein there are three circumferentially spaced apart radially extending struts that are spaced about 120 degrees apart.

21. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a food holder that fits inside the pot interior, the food holder having a base portion that registers against the bottom of the pot and a vertically extending portion that enables a user to lift the food holder.

22. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a horizontally extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that a user can grip the horizontally extended section with his or her hand or hands.

23. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a lower ring that defines at least in part the base.

24. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 13, wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

25. (currently amended) A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a) a burner having a frame that includes a base for engaging an underlying support surface, the frame having a burner element for generating a high intensity flame for use in cooking the burner frame having a support surface for cradling a pot;

b) a pot that includes a pot upper end portion, generally flat bottom portion, a generally cylindrically shaped continuous sidewall and a generally cylindrically shaped interior;

c) the support surface supporting the bottom portion of the pot;

d) the frame further including a projecting member, the projecting member being connected to the frame, extending above the support surface for cradling the pot, and closely tracking the sidewall of the pot; and

e) the projecting member restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use of the cooking apparatus such as when a food to be cooked is inserted into or removed from the pot; and

 f) a plurality of food holding inserts that fit the pot interior, wherein a first insert is

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selectively connectable to and supported by a second insert, the second insert has an upper end with a connector and is being configured to extend between the pot bottom portion and the pot upper end portion and support a food item when it is not connected to the first insert;

g) a lifting hook that selectively connects to or disconnects from the connector of the second insert.

26. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 25, wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

27. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 25, wherein the projecting member comprises a ring.

28. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 25, wherein the projecting member comprises a plurality of struts.

29. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 28, wherein each strut includes a first strut portion, second strut portion, and a third strut portion, the first strut portion of each strut being generally parallel with the bottom portion of the pot, the second strut portion of each strut extending in a generally vertical direction from the second strut portion, the third strut portion extending downwardly from the second strut portion.

30. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 25, the projecting member including a plurality of struts, each strut comprising multiple strut portions and an upper ring.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein at least some of the strut portions extending above the pot support surface and restricting a range of lateral pot movement during use.

32. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 28, wherein there are three circumferentially spaced apart radially extending struts that are spaced about 120 degrees apart.

33. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a food holder that fits inside the pot interior, the food holder having a base portion that registers against the bottom of the pot and a vertically extending portion that enables a user to lift the food holder.

34. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 33, further comprising a horizontally

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extending portion that is connectable to the food holder and that is sufficiently wide that a user can grip the horizontally extended section with his or her hand or hands.

35. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a lower ring that defines at least in part the base.

36. (original) The cooking apparatus of claim 25, wherein the base is a circular ring portion of the frame.

37. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 4 further comprising an upper ring that is attached to the struts.

38. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 16 further comprising an upper ring that is attached to the struts.

39. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 28 further comprising an upper ring that is attached to the struts.

40. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein there are a plurality of said vertical members.

41. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 40 wherein the vertical members are a plurality of struts.

42. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first insert is a steamer plate.

43. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13 wherein the first insert is a steamer plate.

44. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 25 wherein the first insert is a steamer plate.

45. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first insert is spaced above the pot bottom when connected to the second insert.

46. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13 wherein the first insert is spaced above the pot bottom when connected to the second insert.

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47. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 25 wherein the first insert is spaced above the pot bottom when connected to the second insert.

48. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein one of the inserts has a central support and is configured to support a turkey carcass.

49. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13 wherein one of the inserts has a central support and is configured to support a turkey carcass.

50. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 25 wherein one of the inserts has a central support and is configured to support a turkey carcass.

51. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 48 wherein the first insert is a steamer plate that is connectable to the central support.

52. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 49 wherein the first insert is a steamer plate that is connectable to the central support.

53. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 50 wherein the first insert is a steamer plate that is connectable to the central support.

54. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 51 wherein the steamer plate has a central opening that accepts the central support of the second insert.

55. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 52 wherein the steamer plate has a central opening that accepts the central support of the second insert.

56. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 53 wherein the steamer plate has a central opening that accepts the central support of the second insert.

57. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second insert is connectable to a lifting hook.

58. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13 wherein the second insert is connectable to a lifting hook.

59. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 25 wherein the second insert is connectable to a lifting hook.

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60. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pot has a diameter and a height greater than the diameter.

61. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 13 wherein the pot has a diameter and a height greater than the diameter.

62. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 25 wherein the pot has a diameter and a height greater than the diameter.

63. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 60 wherein the second insert has a height that is greater than the pot diameter.

64. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 61 wherein the second insert has a height that is greater than the pot diameter.

65. (previously presented) The cooking apparatus of claim 62 wherein the second insert has a height that is greater than the pot diameter.